

January 26, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SCHRAM JOINS NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
TO REPRESENT THIRD DISTRICT**

LINCOLN – With a couple of meetings under his belt, the newest member of the Nebraska Public Service Commission casts an eye to being an effective representative for his constituents in the eight-county Third District as well as all Nebraskans.

Tim Schram of Gretna became the first new commissioner on the Commission since Jerry Vap of McCook was appointed by then-Governor Mike Johanns in 2001. Schram replaces Lowell Johnson of North Bend as one of five members of the Commission and represents his native Sarpy County as well as Burt, Cuming, Dodge, Saunders, Thurston, Washington, and western Douglas Counties.

“I’m really enjoying it,” Schram said. “I am learning a lot.” The new commissioner is no stranger to serving as a representative, however. He arrived at the Commission following three four-year terms on the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners. Other commissioners and Commission staff have briefed Schram on a variety of issues facing the utility regulating agency that has left an impression. “I have been impressed with the staff and their knowledge of the issues,” he said.

Schram is particularly intrigued by the Commission’s work with 911 implementation for wireless telephone users. As a county commissioner, Schram noted, “I worked extensively with enhancing 911. E-911 is a vital component of our public safety.”

He sees the Commission as a vital player in economic development. “Obviously, the Commission deals with a number of issues that are fundamental for the economic growth of the state.”

Schram’s Third District features both urban and rural populations. “It is important to understand the needs of urban and rural economies,” he said. “A person needs to realize the diversity of 93 counties in Nebraska.”

Nebraska is not isolated in the realm of utility regulation. “It is always good to get outside the box to learn from others and see what is successful across the country,” he said. “We are part of a global economy. We have to understand global issues.”

Schram urges constituents to contact him on matters before the Commission. “I want my constituency to know that I’m always accessible.”

He intends to be visible in the Third District. “I want to look out for the consumers of the state as it relates to the Commission. I am honored to follow Lowell Johnson who was such a long-time dedicated public servant. In addition to serving the previous 12 years on the Commission, Johnson was a 12-year member of the Nebraska Legislature and a 12-year member of the North Bend Board of Education in more than 50 years of public service.

Schram is a partner in a family farming operation as well as an auction sales management business.

###